

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T MOSCOW 15437

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PSDC, UR, CASC
SUBJECT: GROMYKO OFFER TO DEFER PIPER-WHITNEY TRIAL

REF: MOSCOW 15415

1. AT MID-DAY JULY 3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE MFA USA
DIVISION SOKOLOV TELEPHONE THE EMBASSY TO SAY THAT WHILE
GROMYKO HAD INDICATED THE 17TH AS "AN APPROXIMATE" DATE
FOR RESCHEDULING THE PIPER-WHITNEY TRIAL, THE "DEFINITE"
DATE WAS JULY 18.

2. OBVIOUSLY THERE HAS BEEN A MIX-UP ON THE SOVIET SIDE
ABOUT THE DATE OF THE DEFERRED TRIAL. GROMYKO WAS
DEFINATE ABOUT THE 17TH, EVEN JOKING THAT THE SOVIET
AUTHORITIES WERE TRYING TO BE HELPFUL BY RESCHEDULING THE
TRIAL FOR A MONDAY AS OPPOSED TO A SATURDAY OR SUNDAY.
IN ANY CASE, THE GROMYKO PROPOSAL HAS NOW BEEN AMENDED
TO HAVE THE TRIAL POSTPONED UNTIL JULY 18.

3. AS WE WILL BE REPORTING SEPARATELY, WHEN PIPER AND
WHITNEY APPEARED IN COURT AT NOON JULY 3, THE JUDGE
OFFERED TO DELAY THE TRIAL UNTIL THE 18TH. TOON

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